

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00392 101303Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 101225Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1417
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0392

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, EFIN, QA, US, TC

SUBJ: "NEWSWEEK'S" REPORT THAT UAE'S TAJIR RECIPIENT OF LOCKHEED
AGENT FEES FROM GULF AIR TRISTAR PURCHASE

1. "PERISCOPE" SECTION OF NEWSWEEK'S APRIL 12 INTERNATIONAL
EDITION CARRIED ITEM THAT UAE'S MAHDI TAJIR WAS "THE UNNAMED
GOVT OFFICIAL CITED BY SENATOR PROXMIRE AS HAVING BEEN PAID
\$8.7 MILLION IN LOCKHEED SALES COMMISSIONS AND BEING OWED
\$4.5 MILLION MORE". ACCORDING ITEM, PROXMIRE PRESSED LOCKHEED
CHAIRMAN HAACK NOT TO PAY BALANCE DUE, BUT THIS MIGHT BE
DIFFICULT SINCE TAJIR HAD "VALID CONTRACT."

2. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT NEWSWEEK HAS THE WRONG MAN, SINCE
TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE IT WAS GOQ'S SAMI GAYID WHO WAS
RECIPIENT OF AGENT'S FEE ON TRISTAR SALE TO GULF AIR. IT
HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT TAJIR WOULD FIGURE IN THIS TRANSACTION SINCE
AMIR OF QATAR FINANCED PURCHASE. BOTH GOQ AND GAYID PERSONALLY
HAVE BEEN FEARFUL THAT GAYID WOULD BE PUBLICLY FINGERED FOR HIS
ROLE IN DEAL, AND APPARENT MISIDENTIFICATION OF TAJIR MAY GIVE
THEM SOME COMFORT. OF SOME ADDITIONAL INTEREST IS THAT GAYID
AND TAJIR ARE SAID TO HATE EACH OTHER'S GUTS.
PAGANELLI

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